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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO MAKING HAWAI'I ROADS SAFER FOR ALL.

WHEREAS, EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER are lifelong residents of Nānākuli and have a long history of giving back to their community; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of April 24, 2016, their son, Kaulana, whose name in Hawaiian means "the Famous One," tragically passed away in a drunk driving crash; and

WHEREAS, EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER turned their grief surrounding this senseless tragedy into an opportunity to raise awareness about driving under the influence and fleeing the scene of a crash to help the community avoid drunk driving-related crashes in the future; and

WHEREAS, Mothers Against Drunk Driving assisted EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER in learning more about the devastating impacts of drunk driving, teaching them to refer to these tragic events as "crashes," not accidents; and

WHEREAS, EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER, as well as others who have lost loved ones in similar circumstances, urged the State Legislature to create a law that would allow extended prison terms for people convicted of fleeing the scene of a fatal accident; on June 10, 2018, Governor David Ige signed into law, Kaulana's Law, which became effective on July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER believe that it was their son's destiny and legacy to help make Hawai'i a safer place for all; and

WHEREAS, EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER continue to support other families who have lost family members to alcohol-related crashes

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by attending neighborhood board meetings as advocates for "Drive with Aloha"; and

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WHEREAS, EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER have also partnered with the Department of Transportation to improve roadways by adding crosswalks, lighting, and signage to make the state's roadways safer; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, that this body hereby acknowledges EDDIE AND PAULA WERNER for their invaluable contributions to the people of Hawai'i and extends to them its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

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OFFERED BY: